



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20150819-00112-ADV (Health Advisory)
RECIPIENTS: All Primary care providers (Pediatricians, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and General Practitioners), hospitals/ERs, and ICPs - District IV
DATE: Wednesday, August 19, 2015

SUBJECT: *First Confirmed Case of Land Animal Rabies in Mississippi since 1961*

Dear Colleagues:

On August 18, 2015 the Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory confirmed rabies in a feral cat located in Starkville, Mississippi. **This represents the first rabies positive land animal identified in Mississippi since 1961, though rabies has been identified in bats in the state with regularity.**

Contact with the rabid cat was reported both in the downtown area of Starkville and in a remote area in the general vicinity of developed portions of the Thad Cochran Research Park near the Mississippi State University campus. The contact investigation is ongoing and a number of contacts to the rabid cat have been identified and rabies post-exposure vaccination and immune globulin have been recommended based on the exposure risk.

Rabies is transmitted through the bite of an infected animal or through contamination of a fresh wound or mucous membrane with infectious saliva. Rabies is universally preventable if post-exposure vaccination and immune globulin are administered after contact with a potentially rabid animal.

Healthcare providers who see patients who have high risk contact to a feral cat in the general proximity of the Thad Cochran Research Park or in the downtown area of Starkville, Mississippi in the previous 10 days should:

- **Report the incident to the Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after business hours, on weekends and holidays), and**
- **Consider the use of post-exposure prophylaxis.**

Guidance for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis may be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/medical_care/index.html. See <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/> for general information about rabies.

Please call the Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Epidemiology at the above number with questions or concerns.

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Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program:	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20150819-00112-ADV
Program (HAN) Type:	Health Advisory
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00112
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program:	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier:	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert , ADV=Health Advisory , UPD=Health Update , MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type:	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
Health Alert:	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory:	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update:	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service:	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:	
Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).